

Message Text

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11

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 150627Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9031

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

N/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 4674

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

S E C R E T BANGKOK 19403

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN, XC

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SEA APPEAL TO NVN

1. IT HAS OCCURED TO ME, AS A RESULT OF IMPRESSIONS
GAINED DURING INITIAL TALKS WITH THAIS AND CERTAIN OF
MY DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES, THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME
MERIT IN TRYING TO GET SYMPATHETIC SOUTHEAST ASIAN
GOVERNMENTS TO USE ADVENT OF NEW YEAR TO ISSUE
PEACE APPEALS TO NORTH VIETNAM. (THOUGH SOME COUNTRIES
IN THE AREA FOLLOW DIFFERENT CALENDARS, JANUARY FIRST
HAS MORE SIGNIFICANCE AND COULD PERHAPS BE
USED AS PEG FOR APPEAL, THE APPEAL COULD BE BASED ON NEED TO
ELIMINATE HUMAN SUFFERING, ON ARGUMENT THAT MUCH MORE
IS TO BE GAINED BY ALL NATIONS IN THIS AREA FROM LIVING
IN PEACE AND HARMONY THAN THROGH STRIFE AND BULLETS, AND
THAT ALL NATIONS OF SEA SHOULD, WITH ADVENT OF NEW YEAR,
DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO PEACE AND TO UTILIZATION OF THEIR
RESOURCES TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS OF THEIR PEOPLE. THIS
APPEAL TO HANOI COULD BE UNIFIED OR SEPARATE, BUT IN ANY
SECRET

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EVENT SHOULD BE CLOSELY COORDINATED AND COULD TAKE
INTO ACCOUNT THE INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS AND PREOCCUPATIONS
VIS-A-VIS NVN WHICH VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN THE AREA HAVE.
THE INITIATIVE, IF IT MATERIALIZES, SHOULD APPEAR WHOLLY SOUTHEAST

ASIAN IN CHARACTER AND BE BASED ON THEIR OWN
LEGITIMATE INTERESTS. US ENCOURAGEMENT SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CONCEALED.

2. I RECOGNIZE THERE ARE MANY REASONS MITIGATING AGAINST
SUCCESS FOR SUCH AN APPEAL. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE
INITIATIVE PROVIDES THE SOUTHEAST ASIANS WITH ANOTHER
OPPORTUNITY TO WORK JOINTLY AND RESPONSIBLY IN TACKLING
THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, IN A WAY SOMEWHAT SIMILAR TO THEIR COORDINATED
EFFORT TO POSTPONE DEBATE ON THE KHMER ISSUE AT UNGA. A JOINT
SOUTHEAST ASIAN APPEAL WOULD HAVE THE ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE
OF PLACING MORAL PRESURE UPON NORTH VIETNAM. IF,AS
ANTICIPATED, HANOI'S RESPONSE IS NEGATIVE, AT LEAST IT WOULD
AGAIN BE OBVIOUS WHERE PROBLEM IS.

3. IF THIS COURSE OF ACTION MEETS APPROVAL AMONG OURSELVES,
WE MIGHT IDENTIFY ONE OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES WHICH COULD
TAKE THE LEAD IN COORDINATING THE GENERAL APPROACH WITH THEIR
NEIGHBORS. WOULD WELCOME COMMENTS OF INFORMATION ADDRESSEES.
KINTNER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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MANILA
PHNOM PENH
JAKARTA
N SINGAPORE
SAIGON
RANGOON

VIENTIANE

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